

Rep. Torres Small

**FLOOR STATEMENT ON
H.R. 1912, THE “DHS ACQUISITION DOCUMENTATION ACT
OF 2019”**

Tuesday, May 14, 2019

I rise in support of H.R. 1912, a measure I introduced with the support of Congressman Dan Crenshaw, to ensure the Department of Homeland Security effectively manages its largest acquisitions — those with an estimated lifecycle cost of \$300 million or more.

Each year, DHS invests billions of dollars in its acquisition programs to help execute its many critical missions.

However, since the Department was created, DHS has struggled to keep some of its largest programs on schedule and budget.

For example, the Department’s attempts to modernize and integrate its various financial management systems have been in the works for 15 years — with little to show for its multimillion-dollar expenditures.

A plan to deliver a DHS-wide human resources IT system has faced similar delays — as has a decade-long attempt to consolidate the Department’s headquarters at the St. Elizabeths campus in Southeast Washington, D.C.

The Department’s acquisition management challenges have been on the Government Accountability Office’s (GAO) high-risk list since 2005.

GAO has identified shortfalls, including acquisition programs lacking key analyses and schedules.

H.R. 1912, the “DHS Acquisition Documentation Integrity Act of 2019,” would attempt to address some of these concerns by requiring DHS to maintain complete, accurate, timely, and valid documentation for all of its major acquisitions.

This includes documentation such as lifecycle cost estimates, cost-benefit analyses, and project schedules.

Codifying these acquisition documentation requirements — which are already embodied in DHS acquisition policy — is necessary to safeguard against future cost overruns and schedule delays.

A previous version of this bill passed the House unanimously in the 115th Congress, and I urge my colleagues to pass it again today.

With that, (Madam/Mr.) Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.